

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-03 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 L-03 DRC-01

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R 231252Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8337

USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, BU, US, OVIP (POPOV, IVAN)

SUBJECT: POPOV VISIT

REF: A. STATE 157147; B. SOFIA 1206; C. SOFIA 1170

1. DELIVERED SECRETARY DENT'S LETTER TO VICE PREMIER POPOV (REF A) JULY 23. WHEN I SAID WE WILL NOT BE PREPARED TO SIGN ANY GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS DURING HIS VISIT, HE ASKED "NOT EVEN ONE?". HE MADE NO FURTHER COMMENT, AND WE PROCEEDED TO OTHER ASPECTS OF VISIT.

2. LIST OF MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY IS STILL NOT READY BECAUSE OF WRANGLING AMONG AND WITHIN MINISTRIES. IT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE, HE SAID, IN A FEW DAYS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE EMPHATICALLY CONFIRMED WHAT LUKANOV HAD TOLD US (REF B) THAT HIS DELEGATION WOULD BE "MODULAR", I.E. THAT IT EXPECTED TO SPLIT UP FOR THE PURPOSE OF CERTAIN VISITS AND THEN RECOMBINE IN WHATEVER CONFIGURATION APPEARED MOST USEFUL; SO THAT IT WOULD BE ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE FOR LIST THAT HE HAD GIVEN TO US TO BE EXPANDED (REF C).

3. I TOOK OCCASION (SEPTTEL) TO MENTION PROBLEM OF DIVIDED FAMILIES, AND IN THAT CONNECTION SAID FACT THAT BULGARIA IS ONLY EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY STILL JAMMING

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VOA WOULD ALSO INEVITABLY COME UP IF PRACTICE THEN

STILL CONTINUES. POPOV SAID HE SAW OCCASIONAL TRANSCRIPTS WHICH CONTAIN "SPITEFUL AND TENDENTIOUS COMMENTS ABOUT BULGARIA" AND THEN PROCEEDED TO DELIVER LECTURE ABOUT ALLEGED COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE NATURE OF SUCH PROGRAMS IN VIEW OF POLITICAL SOPHISTICATION OF BULGARIAN LISTENERS. I SAID THERE MUST BE SOME CONFUSION SINCE VOA DOES NOT COMMENT ON INTERNAL BULGARIAN MATTERS AND SUGGESTED HE HAVE SOMEONE IDENTIFY PRECISELY THE STATION HE WAS DESCRIBING.

4. POPOV THEN RAISED A RELATED PROBLEM. HE WAS AWARE HIS VISIT HAD NOT ONLY ECONOMIC BUT ALSO POLITICAL CHARACTER, AND IN THAT CONNECTION RECALLED INCIDENTS IN EGYPT AND JAPAN WHEN HE HAD GIVEN PRESS INTERVIEWS ONLY TO FIND PUBLISHED REPORTS QUOTING HIM AS SAYING "EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE". SINCE HE WOULD NOT BE TAKING A PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST WITH HIM, WOULD USG BE ABLE TO OFFER SOME ASSISTANCE? I SAID CUTTING HIMSELF OFF FROM PRESS WAS SURELY UNDESIRABLE, AND HE AGREED. PROMISED WE WOULD LOOK INTO HOW WE MIGHT HELP WITH PRESS RELATIONS. HERZ

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## Message Attributes

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